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# PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY NOTES.

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## PENNSYLVANIA FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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## NEW LEGISLATION.

The following two acts were passed by the Legislature at the last session. They will materially affect those libraries which receive support from school districts and should be considered carefully. The Commission will be glad to hear from libraries as to their experiences in connection with these laws.

### AN ACT

To amend an act entitled "An act for the establishment of free public libraries in the several school districts of the Commonwealth except in cities of the first and second class" approved the twenty-eighth day of June Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five so as to increase the maximum rate one-fourth of a mill and establish a minimum rate.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same* That section three of an act entitled "An act for the establishment of free public libraries in the several districts of the Commonwealth except in cities of the first and second class" approved the twenty-eighth day of June Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five which reads as follows "It shall be lawful for said board to levy a tax for

the purpose improvement and maintenance of said library not exceeding one mill in any one year on the valuation of the property assessed for school purposes in the district which tax shall be collectible as the school taxes of the district are at the time of collecting the same'' be so amended as to read as follows

It shall be lawful for said board to levy a tax for the purchase improvement and maintenance of said library not exceeding one mill and *one-fourth of a mill* in any one year on the valuation of the property assessed for school purposes in the district which tax shall be collectible as the school taxes of the district are at the time of collecting the same *and for the purpose of the maintenance of such library when established and in operation it shall be the duty of the said board to levy an annual tax of at least one mill on said valuation excepting in cases where by reason of fixed revenue from other sources the total income for such purpose according to a verified official estimate on the part of said library would exceed the amount of one and one-fourth mills upon said valuation.*

## AN ACT

To amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the co-operation of cities of the third class school districts thereof and incorporated library associations therein for the erection and maintenance of free public libraries" approved May twenty-second Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and one so as to establish a maximum and minimum rate of tax levy for maintenance of such libraries.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same* That section three of an act entitled "An act to authorize the co-operation of cities of the third class school districts thereof and incorporated library associations therein for the erection and maintenance of free public libraries" approved May twenty-second Anno Domini nineteen hundred and one which reads as follows to wit "It shall be lawful for school controllers of such school district to appropriate under such agreement the entire amount realized from the levy of the said library tax now authorized by law to the maintenance of the library so established as aforesaid and to the purchase of books therefor and to direct the monthly payment of the revenue so derived by the treasurer of said school district into the treasury of said library" be so amended as to read as follows

It shall be lawful for the school controllers of such school district to appropriate under such agreement the entire amount realized from the

levy of the said library tax authorized by law to the maintenance of the library so established as aforesaid and to the purchase of books therefor and to direct the monthly payment of the revenue so derived by the treasurer of said school district into the treasury of said library *and it shall be the duty of the said school controllers to levy annually for the purposes aforesaid a tax not exceeding one mill and one-half of a mill nor less than one mill upon the valuation of the property assessed for school purposes in said district which tax shall be collectible as the school taxes of the district are at the time of collecting the same.*

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## FIELD NOTES.

### *Allentown.*

The new library building at Allentown is nearing completion and promises a most attractive and convenient housing for the library.

### *Ardmore.*

The tenth anniversary of the founding of the Ardmore Free Library was celebrated by a reception and tea given by the library committee on March 10. This work has been carried on largely through the efforts of the Woman's club of Ardmore, and in addition to the library in Ardmore, traveling libraries are sent to Bala, Chestnutwald, Ashland, Mill Creek, Academyville, Mt. Pleasant, Fairview and Merion Square.

### *Conshohocken.*

The Board of Trustees of the Conshohocken Public Library has received from the heirs the offer of the home of the late Mr. Lewis Lukins to be used as a permanent home of the library. The property is located on the main business street near the centre of the town and is a splendid gift to Conshohocken.

Mr. Frederick L. Clark one of the heirs of this property has been connected with this library since its beginning and it is due to his efforts largely that this gift is made to the town. Other members of the Clark family as well as members of the Lukins and Wood families have co-operated in making this library building a possibility.

### *Duquesne.*

Miss Louise Maxey has resigned her position in the Carnegie Free Library at Duquesne. Miss Miriam Cowell of Pratt Institute Library School Class of 1908 will assume her duties as first assistant on May 1.

*Emlenton.*

The library at Emlenton was opened in February in a room on the ground floor of a building near the center of the town. The library opened with nearly five hundred volumes on the shelves, largely the gift of interested citizens, supplemented by a traveling library from the Free Library Commission.

The people of Emlenton have given not only books, magazines and money, but their valuable time to make this institution a success. The result is a pleasant reading room fitted with shelves and tables with a collection of books which promises to increase rapidly.

The present interest in this library holds promise of an efficient future.

*Foxburg.*

The foundation of the new building at Foxburg is laid and the library will probably be ready for occupancy in the late summer or fall.

*Grover.*

A new library has been opened in Grover with a traveling library from the state as a nucleus. The citizens have contributed books and magazines and a room for the purpose. Grover is a town of three hundred people.

*Lancaster.*

Lancaster opened its Free Library Thursday, April first. The building was open from seven to nine when the trustees and librarian received the residents of Lancaster and Lancaster County, who came to inspect the rooms and books. The circulation of books was started Friday afternoon, when the people showed their appreciation by turning out in goodly numbers to take out their applications.

The Library, which is known as the A. Herr-Smith Memorial, occupies two rooms on the first floor of the old A. Herr-Smith residence. The Mechanics library, which dates from the eighteenth century, had its headquarters here for many years, and gave its many and valuable books to the new public library. Several fine collections have been given by the residents.

Miss Marian Spencer Skeeel, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College and The Western Reserve Library school, was appointed librarian the first year.

*Lawrenceville.*

The Lawrenceville Free Library was opened to the people in January with about three hundred books on the shelves.

The people of Lawrencevill have given books, magazines and furniture, as well as money gifts, and have rented a first floor room in a building near the center of the town. The local Grange, the School Board and the Borough Council have all contributed generously to the support of this institution. Miss Myra Howe is librarian.

#### *McKeesport.*

Mr. Herbert Cowing has resigned his position at McKeesport and Miss Elizabeth Pendleton has been elected librarian to fill the vacancy.

#### *Millersburg.*

By the will of Henry J. Johnson, of Millersburg, probated March 20, 1909, this town receives a gift of nearly forty thousand dollars for the founding of a public library and gymnasium.

#### *Philadelphia.*

Three new branches of the Free Library system were opened in January. They were those at Chestnut Hill, Manayunk, and Wissahickon. The Chestnut Hill building contains two rooms, one 70 x 43 feet, and the other for a children's room, 52 x 34 feet. This latter may, on occasion, be used as a lecture room.

At Manayunk the building is 67 feet in front and 60 feet deep. It is in French Renaissance style and built of Indiana limestone with terra cott and brick trimmings. The building at Wissahickon is somewhat similar to the Lehigh Avenue Branch, and is about 78 x 78 feet.

#### *Pittsburg.*

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburg issued in February a catalogue of twenty-five hundred books selected for children. It is based on years of study of children and their needs and tastes. The volume is arranged by author and title with a full subject index.

The South Side Branch of the Carnegie Library was opened to the people on the first day of February. Since its opening the use of this branch library has far exceeded the expectations of those interested.

#### *Somerset.*

The school library at Somerset has been reorganized and will be free to all the town.

#### *State College.*

The public library at State College has recently been organized and is now in charge of Prof. B. H. Bottenhorn.

## LIBRARY MEETINGS.

The Neighborhood Library Association for the vicinity of Philadelphia was entertained in February by Miss Harriet Mumford, librarian of the William McCann library of Norristown. The morning session was held at the library and the afternoon meeting at the home of Miss Mumford. Reports on books assigned at the Phoenixville meeting consumed a large part of the day. This association is attempting definite co-operative work along this line.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIBRARY MEETINGS.

The Monongahela Valley Library Association will hold a district meeting for the libraries in the vicinity of Pittsburg on May 13, at Braddock.

The Neighborhood Library Association for the vicinity of Philadelphia will meet at Darby on May 19.

The libraries in the vicinity of Harrisburg will be entertained by the State Library on May 21. Miss Titcomb, of Hagerstown, will talk of the work of the Washington County Library at the afternoon session.

The libraries of the North eastern part of the state will hold their annual round table meeting at Montrose on May 27.

The North Western Pennsylvania Library meeting will be held at Corry, June 17, 18.

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## CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH TRAINING SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS.

Thirty students have registered in the Training School this year, the largest number in the history of the school. The special students came from N. Y. State Library School, Simmons College, and Wisconsin Library School. Colleges represented were: Allegheny College, Buchtel College, Milwaukee-Downer College, Mt. Alison College (Canada), Mt. Holyoke College, Pennsylvania College for Women, Smith College, Sweet Briar College, Woman's College of Baltimore.

Besides the regular courses in library work and in work with children, and the special lectures given by librarians, philanthropic workers and others, the students have attended the meetings of the National Municipal League, the American Civic Association, the Western Pennsylvania Conference on the Care of Dependent Children, and the Playground Association of America. In connection with their course in Social conditions, the seniors have visited social institutions in Pittsburg.

The school now offers a special course in Bibliography of Children's Books. This is a one year course and combines all the first year courses in general library work, with courses in book selection for children and the second year cataloguing, together with special problems and practice work in book selection, cataloguing and list making for teachers and children. The same number of hours of practice work is required for this course as is required in the regular first year course. The entrance requirements for this course are the same as for the first year students.

The Training School circular for 1909-1910 has just come from the hands of the printer.

The entrance examinations for applicants wishing to enter the school in the Autumn of 1909 will be held June 26 and September 11.

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### DREXEL INSTITUTE LIBRARY SCHOOL.

Miss Alice L. Smith, class of '04, was married March 8, to Mr. Joseph Imhoff Bingham.

Miss Lillian C. Kerr, class of '06, formerly cataloguer of the St. Joseph, Mo., public library, has been appointed reference librarian.

Miss Zelia M. Rank, class of '08, has been appointed assistant cataloguer in the St. Louis public library.

Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, class of '04, has been made branch librarian of the Ozone Branch, Queensborough public library, L. I.

Miss Miriam B. Wharton, class of '02, has been appointed assistant librarian, Aguilar Branch, New York public library.

Miss Mary P. Farr, class of 1895, is now library organizer for the Maryland Library Commission.

Miss Caroline Lauman, class of '07, has been appointed as an assistant in the circulation department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Miss Ruth M. Jones, class of '08, has announced her engagement to Raymond Lundy, of Newark, and has resigned her position as cataloguer, Franklin Institute Library, Philadelphia.

Miss Gertrude King, class of '05, editorial assistant at the Macmillan Publishing Co., has issued a new novel, *The Landlubbers*.

The annual dinner of the Library School Association was held at Atlantic City, March 20. There were fifty members present.

Miss Lucy Grumbine is the secretary for the class of '09.

Commencement exercises will be held June 10.

Entrance examinations for the class of 1910 will be held on June 11.

A meeting of the graduates will be held some time during the Conference of the American Library Association at Bretton Woods, N. H., June 27-July 3. Graduates who will be in attendance are requested to send in their names to the secretary of the association, Miss Agnes H. MacAlister, Drexel Institute.

The following library schools visited the Institute this spring:

The Pratt Institute Library School on March 27, when a reception in the Picture Gallery of the Institute gave the students an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Syracuse Library School on April 10.

The New York State Library School on April 13.

Lectures to the Library School by outside lecturers have this year included the following:

Mr. Montrose J. Moses, on Social Influences in Children's Literature.

Miss Mary P. Farr, on the Work of an Organizer.

Mr. Arne Kildal, of the Library Congress, on Norwegian Libraries.

Mr. Arthur L. Bailey, of the Wilmington Free Institute, on Book-binding for Libraries.

Miss Sarah B. Askew, organizer for the Library Commission of New Jersey, on the Work of a State Organizer.

Mr. J. I. Wyer, Jr., on Outside the Walls.

Miss Frances J. Olcott, of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, on the Training School for Children's Librarians.

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## SUGGESTIVE LIST FOR MOTHERS' READING.

Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh.

Many of these stories about children are quite unsuitable as children's books, but they furnish a delightful method of broadening grown people's understanding of children.

**ALDRICH, Thomas Bailey.**

Story of a bad boy.

The author's own boyhood—active and mischievous, but wholesome. Mr. Howells says, "No one else seems to have thought of telling the story of a boy's life with so great desire to show what a boy's life is, and with so little purpose of teaching what it should be; certainly no one else has thought of doing this for the American boy."

AMBROSI, Marietta.

When I was a girl in Italy.

New edition of "Italian child life." Describes the home life, work and play of Italian children. These simple, informal recollections of an Italian immigrant's childhood form a pleasing contrast to the many stories written about American children.

AMICIS, Edmondo de.

Heart; a school-boy's journal.

A year in a free public school in an Italian city, with glimpses of the boys' life out of school. The stories told to them by their teachers are of the courage and steadfastness of boys. Good to read aloud.

BARRIE, James.

Little white bird; or, Adventures in Kensington gardens.

A fanciful story about a child who firmly believes that all children were once birds, and an old soldier who sets himself to win the boy's companionship and enters into all his imaginings about the fairies who inhabit Kensington gardens. Contains much of the imaginative element and poetic fancy of Peter Pan.

BARRIE, James.

Sentimental Tommy.

"Realizes the wonder world which an imaginative child may create in commonplace circumstances with subtle insight almost beyond praise."—*Dial*.

CRANE, Stephen.

Whilomville Stories.

Collection of humorous stories about children. Author has a keen insight into boy nature and sympathy for the sorrows of children. Written in a crisp style devoid of sentimentality.

CROCKETT, Samuel Rutherford.

Surprising adventures of Sir Toady Lion.

English boy and girl life. Deals with the problem of class distinction among children, the "gang phase" and its attendant struggles.

DASKAM, Josephine Dodge.

Madness of Philip, and other tales.

*Other tales:* A study in piracy.—Bobbert's merry Christmas.—The heart of a child.—Ardelia in Arcady.—Edgar, the choir boy uncelestial.—The little god and Dicky.

Humorous and imaginative stories which embody the innocence and logical illogicality of childhood.

DICKENS, Charles.

David Copperfield.

The personal history and experiences of David Copperfield, the younger, as related by himself. Dickens said, "I have in my heart of hearts a favorite child and his name is David Copperfield."

ELIOT, George, *pseud.*

Mill on the Floss.

Tom and Maggie Tulliver form valuable studies in child character on account of the contrasting nature of their dispositions and the powerful effect of parental love and sympathy on their lives.

GILSON, Roy Rolfe.

In the morning glow.

Stories of child life, illustrating with delicacy and sympathy the relations of children with father, mother, grandfather and other members of the family.

GRAHAME, Kenneth.

Dream days.

Develops appreciation of those inner depths of child life that escape definition. The story "Its walls were as of jasper" is suggestive of a child's delight in a book that he loves.

GRAHAME, Kenneth.

Golden age.

Reproduction of the child's world by one of the rare men to whom a child's point of view still remains accessible.

HARKER, Mrs. Lizzie Allen.

Concerning Paul and Fiammetta.

Introduces the same amusing and delightful group of English children who appear in the "Romance of the nursery" and like it is written about children rather than for them.

HOWELLS, William Dean.

Boy's town.

Humorous account of the author's boyhood in a southern Ohio town.

HUGHES, Thomas.

Tom Brown's school days.

Excellent picture of school life at Rugby under Dr. Arnold. The book is animated by a love of truth and manliness; and Tom's honesty, loyalty and reverence make a strong appeal to young readers.

HUGO, Victor.

Cosette. (In *Les misérables*.)

Shows the effect of love and play upon the life of a child who has been starved for both.

HUTTON, Laurence.

A boy I knew, *and* Four dogs.

The author says, "These histories are absolutely true from beginning to end, nothing has been invented, no incident has been palliated or elaborated." For this reason the reader feels that he gets nearer to the real life of a child than if the author's imagination had enveloped his childhood with a golden haze.

KELLY, Myra.

Little citizens; the humours of school life.

*Contents:* A little matter of real estate.—The uses of adversity.—A Christmas present for a lady.—Love among the blackboards.—Morris and the Honourable Tim.—When a man's widowed.—H. R. H. the prince of Hester street.—The land of heart's desire.—A passport to paradise.—The touch of nature.

KELLY, Myra.

Wards of liberty.

*Contents:* In loco parentis.—A soul above buttons.—The slaughter of the innocents.—A perjured Santa Claus.—Little Bo-peep.—The wiles of the wooer.—The gifts of the philosophers.

KIPLING, Rudyard.

Kim.

Story of life in India, one of the chief characters of which is a little Irish boy who becomes a tool for the secret service. Shows the predominating effect of race characteristics over environment.

LOTI, Pierre, *pseud.*

Story of a child; tr. from the French by C. F. Smith.

Reminiscences of the author's own boyhood, probably colored by his imagination. James Sully says, "These reminiscences date back to the second year, so that the narrative surpasses in retrospective reach all other records of childish experience."

MARTIN, Mrs. George (Madden).

Emmy Lou; her book and her heart.

Sympathetic account of the joys and sorrows of a little girl's school days.

MEREDITH, George.

Ordeal of Richard Feverel.

Study of a boy whose education was based on a philosophic system. Traces the failure of such a system to prepare to withstand temptation.

RICHARDS, Mrs. Laura Elizabeth (Howe).

When I was your age.

Record of the sayings, doings, pranks and mischief of the four little daughters of Julia Ward Howe. It throws an interesting and very loving light on the personality of Mrs. Howe.

STEWART, Charles David.

Partners of Providence.

Racy story of life on the Mississippi and Missouri steamboats. No student of child life has been happier in catching the ardor and inconsequence of the average small boy. Full of delightful humor.

TWAIN, Mark, *pseud.*

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Sequel to "Tom Sawyer." Like "Tom Sawyer" it is often sensational and would be a doubtful book to give to certain boys. As studies of boy nature and boy humor they are both excellent books for parents to read.

TWAIN, Mark, *pseud.*

Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

Boy life in a Mississippi town. Melodramatic adventures of Tom Sawyer and his crowd. The author says, "Part of my plan has been to try to pleasantly remind adults of what they once were themselves, and of how they felt and thought and talked, and what queer enterprises they sometimes engaged in."

WARNER, Charles Dudley.

Being a Boy.

*Contents:* Being a boy.—The boy as a farmer.—The delights of farming.—The boy's Sunday, etc.

An elderly boy's reminiscences and reflections upon his boyhood, which he lovingly remembers. Full of dry, unexpected humor.

WHITE, William Allen.

Court of Boyville.

"The way to Boyville" lies "through a country town inhabited by small, all important, unscrupulous, not overclean, barefoot boys; also by a few parents, guardians, dogs and other cattle."

WIGGIN, Mrs. Kate Douglas.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook farm.

How Rebecca, a fearless, honest, impulsive, beauty-loving child went to live with her Aunt Mirandy in order to get an education that was to be "the making of her."